

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT - MEETING SUMMARY – Jun 19, 2018

Members Present: Lynn Davis, Tami Imbierowicz, Dennis Kirkwood, Doug Kopeck, Roland Beckman, Michael Charlton, Veronica Cassilly

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Julie Mackert, Brittany Long (in place of Matt Kropp), Joe Siemek

Review / Approval of April 17th, 2018 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the April 17th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) Updates – Mr. Paul Magness

Mr. Magness began the presentation by describing the purpose of the LPPRP. The plan sets policies and goals for land acquisition and park development, and is required by Parks and Recreation in order to obtain Project Open Space funding. The guidelines for the plan are prepared by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning.

Guidelines are developed by considering the physical characteristics of the County (waterways, soil types, etc), demographic data (age, income, etc), and tier levels (I-IV; rural villages are tier level III). From these guidelines, goals are developed for the plan. The top two Natural Resources goals are to develop and nurture strong partnerships to protect sensitive resources, and to strengthen the county focus on the preservation of natural corridors and the development of waterway trails. The top two goals for Agricultural Land Preservation are to preserve at least 80% (or a minimum of 1,000 acres) per year of the remaining undeveloped land in priority preservation areas, and to monitor current reservation programs and residential development patterns to determine the impact on working farmland. Many of the goals identified in the LPPRP also correlate with the goals set forth in Harford County's master plan, *HarfordNEXT*.

Harford County is the second fastest growing county in the Baltimore-metro area with a predicted population count of approximately 273,000 people by the year 2030. Right now, the median age is about 40 years old with a median household income of about \$85,000 per year.

The LPPRP states that while children between the ages of 0-9 years old have decreased from 2000 to 2015, the number of teens, young adults, and seniors have increased. In response, more focus will be placed on establishing county-run programs for adults 18 years of age and older. For the growing teen population, the Churchville Recreation Center, Schucks Road Regional Sports Center, and others have been constructed. The Synthetic Turf Field Initiative will also continue in collaboration with Harford County Public Schools to establish wear-resistant turf fields, lasting 8-10 years, on County properties (school fields as well as places like Tucker Field and Cedar Park Lane).

Other notable facts within the LPPRP include the brewery legislation that was passed to encourage the production of barley and hops on county farmland. Single Stream recycling was also implemented in all county parks in 2014 to eliminate recyclable waste buildup in landfills.

Final administration review of the LPPRP will take place on July 2, 2018.
In September 2018, the County Council will review the LPPRP to pass as legislation.

Departmental Updates

Ms. Brittany Long (P&Z) reported that the Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) was still in the process of drafting. Meanwhile, the Suquehannock Wildlife Society is preparing the next set of habitat assessment sites for their summer species assessments. A public meeting to reveal the final draft of the GIP plan has been set for Thursday, September 27, 2018.

Mr. Joe Siemek (DPW) informed the group that more funding will be added to this year's budget to accommodate the growing number of necessary stormwater inspections and erosion control projects. He also noted that the first class from the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) graduated in May. The WSA earns MS4 compliance credits.

New Business

Ms. Cassilly asked if the EAB would be interested to hear about the Forest Conservation bill of Baltimore County that was not passed. Upon agreement, Ms. Cassilly said she knows a speaker whom is knowledgeable of the subject matter who can come to the next meeting and talk to the group.

Ms. Davis mentioned that she will reach out to Paul Gartelmann and Matt Kropp to write a letter of support for the GIP's implementation.

Ms. Long noted that there would not be an EAB meeting held during the months of July and August to accommodate various group members' vacation times.

Adjourn- Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.